

THE  
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXXIV.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1846.

No. 11.

CLINICAL REMARKS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

**HEARING THROUGH THE MOUTH.**—Under this caption the February No. of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal has the following.

"A correspondent residing at St. Charles, Missouri, writes, under date of December 30th, that a widow lady at Danville, six miles from his residence, has two deaf and dumb children. About three months ago," he continues, "one of them, on awaking from sleep, ran to its mother, who took it up and kissed it—and while their lips were in contact the mother spoke aloud." The child put on the look of surprise and delight, and she therefore again spoke in the mouth of the child, who repeated the word. "The operation has been many times repeated, and the little one has learned many words by hearing them through the mouth." "Is this," he asks, "a singular circumstance? Can it be accounted for by supposing there is an occlusion of the external auditory passage, and that the sound passed through the Eustachian tube?"—(page 505). Permit me to suggest to the relater of this beautiful incident, that the external auditory passage *was* probably closed, but that the sound did *not* pass through the Eustachian tube. By depressing the lower jaw as in opening the mouth, the condyloid process of that bone is thrown slightly forward, and the digastricus acting at the same time, the external auditory passage is enlarged. This is quite perceptible by careful inspection of the healthy ear while the mouth is opened and shut, alternately. Hence, also, people whose hearing is very imperfect from obstructions in this passage, listen with their mouths open.

I apprehend, then, that in these cases, and in many others of partial deafness, the external auditory passage is obstructed, completely when the mouth is shut, partially when open—that a careful examination (the head being so placed that a ray of the sun's light shall pass into the ear) would generally detect the obstruction—and, that there is much ground to hope that its removal, by mechanical or other means, would restore the organ to its usefulness.

**MAGNESIA WITH MERCURIALS POISONOUS?**—Some twenty years ago the writer was called, about midday, to visit an infant who had taken, on the morning of that day, for some slight indisposition, an ordinary portion of calcined magnesia. The symptoms present were those of poisoning by corrosive sublimate, vomiting, hypercatharsis, &c., and were relieved, after several hours of severe suffering and much apparent danger, by the

use of the ordinary antidotes to that poison. The magnesia had been mixed with water in a teacup on the evening of the day before, but some circumstance prevented its administration till the ensuing morning, when, on giving it, the mother discovered a softened and partially dissolved portion of a "blue pill" in the bottom of the cup, and then remembered that this pill had some time before been placed there for safe keeping—still, she apprehended no danger from the circumstance till some time after, when the violent symptoms arose.

This case, occurring early in his professional life, produced a strong impression upon the writer's mind, and so great a repugnance to the combination of magnesia and mercury in one prescription, as to prevent him from ever administering them with a view to their coöperation. Under these circumstances a peculiar interest was felt in the following item of intelligence in a late No. of the Medical and Surgical Journal (page 388, Vol. XXXII.)

"*Singular Effects of Calomel.*—Dr. Ashmead related to the Philadelphia College of Physicians the case of a patient under his care, to whom an ordinary dose of calomel was given as a purgative, and followed by a dose of magnesia—who, soon after taking the calomel, was seized with symptoms similar to those resulting from poisoning with corrosive sublimate. He was treated by the usual antidotes and remedies indicated in such cases, and recovered."

Calling on Dr. Ashmead for the purpose, the writer learned that the calomel in this case (grs. x.) was given in the evening, followed during the night by thirty grains of Dover's powder in three doses, and a drink of *lemonade*; that a large dose of magnesia was given the following morning; and that the symptoms of poisoning supervened at 12 or 1 o'clock of that day. The disease for which this course was prescribed was, apparently, unconnected with any derangement of the stomach or bowels.

It is proper to add, that Dr. Ashmead had not suspected the magnesia as having any agency in the symptoms of poisoning; but apprehending an excess of acid in the submuriate used, had made particular inquiry of the chemist who manufactured it (noted for his accuracy), and was assured of its careful preparation, and that no other complaint had come to his knowledge.

Now, from the frequent combination of these two remedies in one prescription, we may, I think, safely infer that the effect is not often deleterious; still there seems reason to apprehend that under certain circumstances, at present unknown, a chemical change is affected in the "blue mass" and in calomel, when followed or accompanied by magnesia, that converts these ordinarily mild remedies into a virulent poison. Additional facts, only, can enlighten us on this subject; and it is with a view to elicit these, that I now throw these suggestions before the profession.

Philadelphia, 3d Mo., 1846.

Respectfully, &c.

PAUL SWIFT.

## ON HOMŒOPATHY AND ALLŒOPATHY.\*

"It appears to us reasonable, that the claims of homœopathy, regarded as a system of medical doctrine, ought to be admitted so far as to entitle it to investigation, at least; and in undertaking such an investigation, we have no more right to reject the evidence supplied in its favor by its professors, than we have of rejecting any other evidence in favor of any other medical doctrine, theoretical or practical."—"Young Physic," by John Forbes, M.D., F.R.S., one of the Editors of the "Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine," Editor of the "British and Foreign Medical Review," &c. &c.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Mr. Forbes, in his essay on Young Physic, has with irresistible energy overthrown the vast and cumbrous fabric of allœopathy, which, for a long series of ages, has been propped up by successive additions of massive pillars, but badly materialized; and in the demolition of this huge structure has endeavored to bury homœopathy in its ruins. In which attempt he has most signally failed.

Mr. Forbes having no confidence in the curative properties of allœopathic remedies, as employed in the treatment of diseases, recommends entire abstinence from their use, and the leaving the cure to the recuperative powers of nature.

How far unaided nature is capable of curing diseases, may be considered, at least, problematical. "Life is a forced state" and dependent on the action of extraneous circumstances not only for its continuance, but for its very existence. As the principle of vitality does not possess the intrinsic power of perpetuating itself, the application of stimulants becomes essential to its maintenance. The action of stimulants on the system would be inert, were not the principle with which it is animated susceptible of impressions, and endowed with the power of reaction. Health consists in the preservation of a just balance between the action of stimulants, and the reaction of the vital principle; disease is the deviation from the due adjustment of these powers.

Nature: ensemble des propriétés qu'un être tient de naissance; ensemble des lois qui régissent les êtres. Nature, in accordance with the above definitions, comprehends in the aggregate all the powers of the living body, namely, vitality, irritability, sensibility, motion and instinct; but this term in its operation on the animal economy may be used in a more restricted sense.† While it has in a considerable degree the power of preserving the functions in a sound and healthy state, and of resisting the action of morbid agents, and, by its reaction, of overcoming their deleterious effects; the faculty of selecting and furnishing a proper course of regimen and diet, and sometimes of seeking an appropriate remedy for some of the morbid derangements and perturbations to which the system is liable, is the peculiar province of instinct.‡ These properties of

\* Allœopathy is derived from the Greek word *Allois*, Latin *diversus*, not *Allos*, Latin *Alius*.

† The properties of life are so interwoven, that in giving the description of either of them it is difficult to limit the extent of its action, by definite boundaries.

‡ It is probable the distinction that is made between the office of instinct and that of nature will not meet with the ready assent of the reader. I am induced, however, to make the distinction from the ensuing observations:

When a gnat lights on the cheek, and inflicts a painful sting, we without reflection immedi-

life are collaborators in the maintenance of health, and the curing of disease. Though their offices tend to the same end, they are successive and distinct. Nature prompts, instinct acts and executes.

There are three modes of preventing disease and its fatal issue: 1st, by the preservative power of nature; 2d, by instinct; 3d, medical skill. That these three methods of cure may prove abortive, history affords ample testimony. In support of this position it is sufficient to refer to syphilis. Within four centuries, this terrible scourge prevailed in Europe, and produced more instances of death, distress, mutilation and deformity, than the most destructive epidemic that ever scourged that quarter of the globe. In this disease there was no salutary re-action manifested; the sagacity of instinct was wholly at fault; and medical skill proved unavailing. It cannot be doubted, however, there may have occurred cases, in which nature resisted the inroads of this loathsome disease, and obviated its destructive effects. In other diseases, as in this, its preservative power may also manifest itself under the most inauspicious circumstances. Hence, in the treatment of diseases, nature, or the laws of vitality, and its capability of re-action, should be observed with particular care by the practitioner.

In syphilis, nature, or instinct, or both, are, in almost every case, wholly inadequate to counteract its effects. But, when uncomplicated with psora,\* or other miasma, it is speedily cured by homœopathic treatment. This may furnish a reply to the proposition in "Young Physic," which follows. "If they: [the homœopaths] can show a sufficiently large number of instances of two parallel series of diseases, the one series treated homœopathically, the other left to nature, and show that all or the vast majority of the one set were cured or benefited, and the other set not—then, indeed, we shall be prepared to admit the con-

gely brush it off or kill it, and the pain ceases at once. This act is produced undoubtedly by instinct. The painful impression on the sense of feeling, arising from the sting, arouses instinct into immediate action, and the remedy is applied. "Sensation and action" appear to be the only properties concerned in this case. But if a bee or a wasp inflict a sting, notwithstanding instinct may have prompted us to brush off or kill the insect, pain and swelling ensue, and by the reaction of nature a process will be established that will remove the pain and resolve the tumefaction. Thus, in this instance nature accomplishes what instinct fails to do.

There is a disease produced in the cow from a deficient supply of the phosphate of lime, inducing extreme emaciation and death. The remedy is the bones of animals, in which is found the basis of this salt, reduced to powder by art or mastication. When the animal is in this state of suffering, instinct impels her to seek and select bones from the surrounding objects—a kind of substance which in health she would pass by without noticing, and probably, from the absence of the stimulus of instinct, without being able to recognize it—and devour them with avidity.

There is a large quantity of phosphate of lime in milk; and when milch cows feed on grass that grows on soil imperfectly impregnated with lime, they are liable to become extremely emaciated, and unless the appropriate remedy be timely interposed, death will be the result. Oxen and fallow cows, belonging to the same herd, and feeding on the same fodder, are exempt from the disease. The evil may be remedied by drying up the milk.

Another case came under my own cognizance. Several summers since, I had occasion to visit a patient in the country; my visits were usually made in the morning. At two several times, I saw a small, short-legged, chubbied dog, which had the appearance of being very old, cross the road, as fast as clumsiness and old age would admit, to a grass plat for the purpose of eating grass. On the second morning I watched his movements more narrowly. About the same hour as on the morning previous, the animal crossed the road to the grass plat, and went from one part to another, and eat grass, which he seemed to select with care and discrimination.

As grass is not the ordinary food of animals of this class, it is probable the dog was urged on by instinctive impulse in quest of some remedy dictated by nature, in order to cure some malady under which he might have labored.

\* Whenever the cure is retarded, I interpose an anti-psoric remedy with advantage.



elusiveness of the argument based on experience. And in this case we must concede to the homœopathists, that no argument based on the mere ground of a positive inconceivableness of a dose, or a supposed impossibility of its action, will have any weight. 'Empty declamations,' to repeat Hahnemann's own words, must give way before the might of infallible experience."

Hahnemann's mode of ascertaining the virtues of the medicines contained in his works, his manner of preparing them, the amount of their doses and their repetition, to which Mr. Forbes objects, as positions far from being established, are, in my opinion, so well founded, that I have adopted the homœopathic practice altogether.

Mr. Forbes treats with "fresh ridicule" the idea that a medicine divided into infinitesimal doses can be of any efficacy, by displaying a long and imposing array of figures. According to Hahnemann, the virtues of these minute doses are not derived from the mere mechanical division, but from the virtues communicated to them by trituration or agitation. Allowing, however, the virtue of a dose, as Mr. Forbes supposes, is attributable to mechanical division, it must be taken into consideration, that matter is infinitely divisible; and, thus, when this gentleman reduced one grain of a medicine to a decillionth of a grain, that the remainder is again separable into as many parts as the amount of the number of the row of figures he has so ostentatiously paraded, and still the remainder is capable of being divided into as many parts as it was previous to the last division; and, thus, were he to proceed even in geometrical progression, still the matter left would be infinitely divisible. If, then, we admit the soundness of the reasoning contained in the following extract, the infinitesimal doses become more active in proportion to the minuteness of their division: " Dans un corps parfaitement organisé comme l'homme, le mammifère, il n'existe qu'un seul centre de vie; l'individu ne peut être divisible. Dans le zoophytes, la plante, il y a plusieurs centres de vie, puisqu'en divisant ces êtres on les multiplie par boutures; mais dans le minéral ces centres de vitalité sont encore plus multipliés, puisque chaque molécule y jouit de son existence propre. A mesure que ces centres de vie augmentent en nombre dans une substance quelconque, ils deviennent plus restreints et ont moins d'organes; de là vient que leur vitalité est plus simple, plus obscure, et en même temps plus adhérente; au contraire, plus ces centres de vie sont réunis en moindre nombre ou rapprochés en un seul centre, plus leur forces sont exaltées, développées, et plus leur activité s'exerce avec énergie à l'extérieur."<sup>\*</sup>

Theoretical discussions are undoubtedly very proper, as they lead to the attainment or discovery of a satisfactory knowledge of the *modus operandi* of medicine; but it suffices for me to know, without having recourse to theory, under what circumstances medicine may produce a salutary reaction.

That psora is the cause of numerous chronic diseases may be mere conjecture; but it may be confidently asserted that the anti-psoric reme-

\* Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales.

dies of Hahnemann contribute powerfully to the cure of affections belonging to that class. There is as much reason, and, in my opinion, much more, that the psoric miasma constitutes the basis of chronic diseases, than scrofula, which by many is considered to be the foundation of diseases of this description. For a series of ages it was the popular belief, that diseases of this kind were owing to humors in the blood, without specifying their character.

The above remarks have been introduced preliminary to the following statement: It is several years since I commenced the investigation of the homœopathic mode of practice, and availing myself of every source of information within my power, I have arrived at the conclusion, that the platform on which the science rests is sound. In my medical rejuvenescence, it will be esteemed, I trust, a laudable desire on my part to be admitted into the ranks of "Young Physic." In order to propitiate those who may establish the new school, I submit to their consideration the subsequent case:

For many years before I became acquainted with the practice of homœopathy, I labored under a costive habit complicated with paucity of urine and anal fissures. For the purpose of having a better opportunity of attending to my case, I retired into the country, which took place in the summer of 1834. My stools were attended with the most excruciating torture. By diet, laxatives and injections, at the end of three years of the above time the fissures were healed; but great tenderness remained; the costive habit continued; and persistence in the occasional employment of the above remedies was indispensable; the operation of which continued to be almost always exceedingly painful and debilitating; eventually, the sensibility and contractile power of the rectum became so obtunded and enfeebled, as not to be impressible by the stimulus of an injection. As a last resort, it was necessary to depend entirely on aperients.

After I became acquainted with homœopathic medicine, I made use of many articles recommended in costiveness with advantage, especially *nux vomica*; still I was obliged, though rarely, to resort to allœopathic doses calculated to remove constipation. During this time my capacity for expulsion of feces was feeble, and my discharges were, with very few exceptions, accompanied with pain of greater or less severity. About nine months ago, I came into possession of muriate of soda of the thirtieth potency; it was the first time I ever used a medicine of so high an attenuation, excepting belladonna. Doubting with my friend Forbes the efficiency of a dose so infinitesimally small, I took five globules\*—and these were exceedingly minute; no doubt I was induced to take so large a dose from being in the habit of taking it daily in large quantities, not, however, having undergone the dynamising process of Hahnemann. In a fortnight after I took the first portion, I took two more globules, and I have had no occasion of having recourse to any other remedy, since I took the first portion. From this period, I have possessed the natural

\* After taking this dose, there was communicated throughout the system a sensation, as if the minute vessels were in a state of slight distention, that lasted forty-eight hours; which was not the case after taking the second dose.

and absolute control over the expulsive powers of the rectum ; the pain and soreness of the anus has ceased ; and the urine is secreted in sufficient quantities. Whether the recovery from this distressing and painful complaint took place in *consequence* of the restorative operation of the muriate of soda, or as a mere *sequence*, it is not very material, so long as the disease terminated in health. Provided homœopathic medicine be always successful, surely it cannot be objected to, because it follows as a sequence and not as a consequence.

WILLIAM INGALLS.

Boston, April, 1846.

#### PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In a recent No. of the Journal I see suggested, as a probable cause of puerperal convulsions, the too great distension of the membranes by the amniotic fluid. I am fully convinced of the correctness of the writer's views, more particularly from having attended a recent case in which it was manifestly the exciting cause of the convulsions. Early on the morning of the 3d of Feb., I was requested to visit Mrs. G. (about seven miles from town), aged about 19, in labor with her first child. She was of short stature and rather plethoric, the abdomen remarkably enlarged for so small a woman. The face was somewhat flushed. She complained of some pain in the head. After making some inquiries of her, and examining the pulse, which was full, I approached the fire to warm myself. My attention was suddenly directed to her, by the cries of the friends that she was convulsed. On examination, per vaginam, the os uteri was found dilated to the size of a quarter of a dollar, the membranes very firm and distended. There appeared to be a permanent contraction of the uterine globe. She had been in labor about five hours. Soon after the first paroxysm of convulsions ceased, I bled freely, directed cold applications to the head, and waited fifteen or twenty minutes, when I found the os uteri sufficiently dilated, and determined to rupture the membranes. A large quantity of amniotic liquor was discharged. From this time the convulsions appeared to cease gradually, and regular and efficient contractions came on. Finding it a natural position of the vertex, the soft parts favorably disposed, and the contractions appearing pretty efficient, I determined to await the further progress and trust to the efforts of nature for the delivery of the fœtus. In this I was not mistaken, for in three quarters of an hour a healthy, living male child was delivered. The convulsions ceased, and she had a rapid recovery under a moderate antiphlogistic treatment. The child sustained little or no injury, although she had several severe convulsions.

This case has fully impressed upon my mind the necessity of rupturing the membranes in such cases, as early as the os uteri will permit.

Saline Co., Mo., March, 1846.

B. E. P.

NOTE.—This lady had no consciousness as to what had passed for 30 hours, nor did she remember a single individual who was present.

## ALVINE CONCRETION OBSERVED.

By Elias S. Bennett, M.D.

I WAS requested to visit Mrs. H. A. H——, about 50 years of age, and who had been for some fifteen years distressed with a large and painful tumor, situated on the right side, a little higher than the promontory of the spinous process of the ilium. This had attained so great a magnitude as to encroach upon the hepatic region, and from its size and feel, would, to a casual observer, render a diagnosis somewhat difficult, and make it questionable whether it was not attached to the anterior inferior border of the groin. For the relief of this malady she had from time to time placed herself under the care of two medical gentlemen of standing; and for so desirable an object the usual practice was carried out, such as a mercurial course, leeching, epispastics, poultices and active purgation, but without relief. Having been solicited to prescribe for her, I at once placed her under a course of iodine, internally; and at the same time blistered the surfaces, with a concentrated tincture of the same— $\mathfrak{z}$ j. to the  $\mathfrak{z}$ ss. of spirits. In addition, a sheet of lead, of two pounds weight, was required to be worn over the surface, with a tight bandage.

Under this plan of treatment, she was enabled to pursue her avocation as a month's nurse, for as much as two or three months, with comfort to herself and satisfaction to her employers.

But on the morning of 1st of March, she was suddenly and severely seized with the ordinary symptoms of colic, and was kindly visited by my friend, Dr. L. Lee, who prescribed for her symptoms, but without relief. I applied hot fomentations; tinct. opii and ol. ricini being freely given in conjunction with enemata every hour. In this state she continued to the 5th of March, when vomiting of a severe character supervened, and this frequently; a portion of what was thrown up was decidedly *stercoraceous*, and excessively offensive. At this juncture, the attention of my highly esteemed friend, Prof. Geddings, was solicited; and at his suggestion the following prescription was given: R. sub. mur. hyd., grs. xx.; pulv. opii, gr. i. Ft. pil. iv. One every hour. This was alternated with R. ol. ricini,  $\mathfrak{z}$ i.; spt. terebinth.,  $\mathfrak{z}$ ss., ft. mis., taken in one dose in conjunction with warm bath, epispastics, &c. This was attended with no good. In this state she continued suffering for seven days. It was then proposed to pass a flexible tube as high up the rectum as possible, and deliver, by the pump, as large quantity of decoct. sem. lini. as could be retained; this was accordingly done; and, singular to say, it was freely ejected from the mouth, in less than one hour, in the condition in which it was delivered. This plan, as was proposed, was frequently repeated, and in order to assist the strength of the tube, a strip of whalebone was worked into shape and introduced into it, so as to prevent its too readily bending—and after this it could be carried forward seventeen inches, without meeting with any undue resistance. At this period, the powers of nature appeared to yield, accompanied with very great prostration, a blue state of the skin, and sloughing of the surface of blistered surfaces, and death seemed to claim his victim. In this state of prostration she

passed the night, and in the morning we proposed a very large dose of submur. hydrarg. alone, feeling she would sink without it; and she could but die with it. A portion of  $\text{Op.ii.}$  was therefore administered, and in one hour after, the tube was passed with some care twenty inches; at this distance, we were met with decided resistance. By a free manipulation of the tumor, over the lateral wall of the abdomen, and applying a little force to the guarded tube, something suddenly yielded, with great borborygmus; and in a few minutes, she expressed an urgent call to the close stool—very copious and free, but watery discharges, now took place, and so very frequent, as to demand a decided and strong course of stimulation. Mustard, brandy, ammonia, musk, and turpentine, had each their turns; and finally an enema of starch, with forty drops tinct. opii, arrested farther prostration.

On the next day, 15th March, she complained of feeling a hard lump at the umbilicus, and upon applying the hand it was distinctly felt to recede before the force applied; it was finally lost on the left side. Now it was discovered that the old tumor was very much reduced in size, and free from pain. Great uneasiness was, however, experienced all that night, along the course of the colon, and in the morning at the rectum; a large injection of decoct. sem. lin. was administered, with instructions to use every effort that her feeble state would admit of, to expel the offending mass; when it was so far expelled as to be readily seized hold of, and extracted by a gentle rotary motion. When first obtained, it had something of the character of carbonate of lime spread over its surface. The smallest end of it was indented by a groove of one sixteenth of an inch in depth. This calculus was probably fixed in the opening of the small intestines or ilio-coecal valve; and upon our effort to pass the tube, it no doubt came in collision with that portion projecting into the larger intestine, and lifting it out of its bed, suffered it to fall and float down its proper channel, when it was ultimately expelled by the anus. My patient from this hour continued to improve, and now enjoys better health than for twenty years before.

With the view of preserving this mass, we have not attempted an analysis, and therefore can say nothing as to its component part. Length, two inches and three fourths; breadth, one inch and seven eighths; weight, two ounces and six drachms.—*Southern Jour. of Med. and Phar.*

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#### ABORTION, FÆTUS RETAINED FOUR MONTHS AFTER ITS DEATH.

By Dr. Thomas C. Osborne, of Erie, Ala.

MRS. E. W., a highly respectable lady of this place, aged 30 years, of a corpulent and sanguine habit, is the mother of three living children; she suffered an abortion two years ago, caused by a stubborn chronic hepatitis. Her health improved from that time till the first of April, when she became satisfied that she was again pregnant, the evidences of which continued till the first of August, at which time, as she reckoned, she was four months advanced in utero-gestation. At this time, without any apprecia-

ble cause, she was attacked with pains in the back, &c., attended with contractions of the uterus, and a slight hemorrhage, of the character and consistence of the menstrual fluid. This condition, which lasted several days, was checked, promptly, by a few portions of acetate of lead and opium; but from the time of the attack until the embryo was expelled, three months afterwards, she never experienced a single symptom of pregnancy, neither was there, during that time, a return of the catamenia. This, together with an astonishing increase of corpulency, gave rise in her mind to the most painful apprehensions. She complained of strange and distressing sensations.

On the 27th of the following November, she discovered what she again thought to be the menses; but as the day advanced, the fluid assumed more the appearance of a hemorrhage, and, severe labor pains coming on, she was obliged to take to her bed. For ten hours the efforts of the uterus were almost intolerable, hardly allowing a minute's intermission from pain. Her strength was nearly exhausted, and although repeated doses of tincture of opium were administered, and copious venesection resorted to, the pains persisted with alarming obstinacy, until the ovum was expelled.

This, upon examination, presented the following appearances:—membranes thick, firm and entire, containing five or six ounces of very turbid liquor amnii, and an embryo of full four months' development, in a state of incipient putrefaction. The head was large; the eyes, ears, nose and mouth distinct: the extremities fully formed, with the exception of the nails; genitals very distinct; the entire length of the embryo being about six inches. The funis umbilicalis was thirteen to fifteen inches long, and arose from one side, instead of the centre, of the placenta. The foetal surface of the placenta presented nothing further unnatural, but its uterine surface exhibited many abnormal appearances. In diameter it was about three inches; two-thirds of which was occupied by three distinct portions of a cartilaginous or fibro-cartilaginous substance; and the remaining third was taken up by a substance resembling an old clot of blood. Each portion of these masses was separated from the others by a furrow corresponding to the depth of the disease.

The largest, and yellowish portion of cartilaginous substance, was nearly as firm as the cartilage of the ribs. The next to it, was white, but pervaded by a slight tinge of red, and throughout it was the most granular substance I have ever seen. The third was of a dull white color, and felt under the knife like the substance of the mammary gland. The whole diseased surface was about four lines in thickness, and it was under the clotted part that the funis took its origin.

I have but few remarks to make on the above case.

Mrs. W. was certainly pregnant from the first of April to the first of August. She did not then abort, but if she had done so, there was not time, between the 1st of August and the 27th of November, for another foetus to have reached such a stage of development as that attained by the embryo in this case. A complete interruption in the nutrition of the

ovum must have taken place at the fourth month of gestation, and the disease of the placenta was the growth of the subsequent months.—*Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery.*

"FICTITIOUS MEDICAL CATALOGUES."

[PROF. GIBSON, of the University of Pennsylvania, in his late "Valedictory Address to the Class of Medical Graduates," thus alludes to a subject which has been referred to in our pages as well as in other Medical Journals. After stating the large number of *genuine students* attending the last course of lectures, he proceeds:]

Whilst on this subject, I may further remark, that in the midst of a population of several hundred thousand persons, which furnishes such ample material for eliciting a *matriculating* list, the latter must be a very imperfect index or exponent of the state of a school, unless regulated by certain restrictions. We have therefore to say, that our published list of this session is strictly an *expurgata* one, and presents a fair exhibit of the relation of each name to the institution—no name having been placed upon this catalogue which had not been previously inserted in an inscription book under the supervision of the Dean, in the *handwriting of the individual himself*, or in a manner equally authoritative and decisive in regard to his connection with the school.

I may also state, that the *physicians* and a *very few* other persons attending upon a general permit, have been marked out and summed up, so as to establish the distinction between them and the body of the class—that no tickets have been *gratuitously* distributed by professors or others under any *designation* whatever, that they might afterwards be added to the matriculating list to augment its number; that no simple contribution of names has been made with the same view; that no youths engaged in a course of elementary education in common schools, have been reported in the catalogue as medical students; that in keeping the catalogue clear of all such accessories which may have been blended with it, the position of every individual has been fairly defined and fixed; that the *post town* or *post office* of his neighborhood has been reported, as well as the name of his *preceptor*; it not being considered sufficiently explanatory, now, by the public to designate an individual merely by the *State* in which he may be said to reside, but by localities and circumstances to be ascertained by any one who may desire to learn his exact habitation; nor as affording to others corroborative evidence of good faith on the part of those upon whom the responsibility of making out a catalogue devolves.

We, of course, do not pretend to dictate to other schools, the mode in which their catalogues shall be presented to the public; presuming that each school will pursue its own plan, in accordance with the views or policy most congenial to itself; but as the *formation* of such documents has become, recently, a subject of inquiry and of animadversion by Journalists and others, we deem it a duty to ourselves to put forth this dis-



claimer of any *irregularity* on our part, and wish it to be distinctly understood by the alumni and friends of the University that *its matriculating list* is preserved under such restrictions, as to make it always a true and faithful report of the actual condition of the institution, and that it must be judged of *per se*, and by the principles upon which it is formed.

I may further remark that our list of *graduates* now is, and has always been *small*, compared with the *large* number of *students* attending the school. This depends, there is reason to believe, upon a rigid adherence, on our part, to the regulations made by our trustees for the government of the school, and upon the system of discipline pursued throughout—a system which, however well it may work with the educated, intelligent and industrious student, is certainly a terror to the idle, the dissipated and the ignorant, and calculated to drive them in *shoals* to such places as they hope and believe will furnish them with degrees upon the easiest terms. The celebrated Dr. Parr, in reply to one by whom he was twitted and taunted, upon the strictness of his discipline, remarked: "Yes, sir, discipline is a good thing; 'tis discipline that makes the soldier, discipline that makes the sailor, discipline that makes the scholar, discipline that makes the *gentleman*, and the want of discipline that makes you what you are." To this I may add, that discipline has made your *alma mater*; that discipline has made the students, the gentlemen and the graduates belonging to her; and that when she loses her discipline, she will lose, and deserve to lose, her reputation and her life. With discipline are necessarily associated principle and consistency. "Lead us too soft, as well as too worthless, to be stamped into coin and currency. You cannot polish a fungus or a sponge. Solid bodies *only* can admit the process; and the firmer *they* are, the better will they shine."

#### CASE OF CATALEPSY RELIEVED BY MUSIC.

By James Bloodgood, M.D., of Cassopolis, Mich.

I WAS called in the evening of Sept. 5th, 1843, to see Dorcas Howard, aged 17, of small stature and florid complexion, who was said to be in a fit. I found her with a full, somewhat accelerated pulse, white tongue, costive bowels, flushed face and completely cataleptic; the muscles of the eyelids, which I believe is unusual in this rare disease, being affected like all the other muscles of voluntary motion, and with this peculiarity, that when closed, a slight impulse communicated to one of them, would cause both to open widely, in which state they would remain until an opposite impulse was given, when both would close simultaneously; but such a balance between the opposing muscles as would leave them partially open after the finger was removed, could not be obtained. Her attending physician, Dr. Allen, of Lagrange, where the case occurred, informed me that she labored under menstrual suppression, and that the attack was preceded by severe headache. As no notes were taken, the previous treatment is forgotten. We applied cups to the temples, directed a blister to the spine, sinapisms to the extremities, cold applications to the head, and a mixture

of jalap and crem. tart. to be kept in the mouth, and which was swallowed involuntarily at intervals through the night.

6th, 9 o'clock.—No operation or change in any respect. Having learned that she was extravagantly fond of dancing to the music of a violin, a performer on that instrument was procured, and requested to play one of her favorite tunes, which he did, with immediate and striking effect. Her breathing became hurried and deep, and for a short time she appeared to be making strenuous efforts, like one closely bound, to release herself; she then became quiet, with the exception of the fingers of the right hand, the motion of which corresponded so perfectly with those of the operator's left, as to induce the bystanders to attribute it to mesmerism, which was in high credit here at that time. When the music ceased, she opened her eyes and drank eagerly of water that was presented to her, though still apparently unable to move, and a repetition of the dose, not of water, but of music, restored her to perfect consciousness and volition. Under the operation of a blister to the epigastrium, which was tender, and means to restore the menstrual secretion, she soon recovered, and was subsequently married.

March 23d, 1845.—I was again requested to see her for a similar attack, which had continued five days without medical treatment, the fiddling having been relied on exclusively. The paroxysms were now of an hysterical character, commencing with convulsions, which became frightful if not arrested; but under the operation of the violin, which had been in use almost constantly by night and day, she passed in a few moments from the convulsive to the cataleptic state, and to consciousness as in the first attack, to relapse almost whenever the music ceased. Bleeding, cupping, blistering and cathartics relieved her in a day or two, and she remained as well as could be expected, with the exception of a threatened abortion, for which she was bled until the 13th of Sept. last, when she was delivered of a small healthy child after an easy labor, and has since remained in perfect health. The effect of music in this case was very remarkable. During her sickness she never had a paroxysm which music would not remove, or which was removed without it, though its effect was only temporary until depletory remedies had been used; and those remedies, however necessary they might be to secure a permanent recovery, were never alone sufficient to relieve a paroxysm.—*American Jour. of the Med. Sciences.*

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## THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON. APRIL 15, 1846.

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*Swedenborg's Animal Kingdom.*—A friend has kindly given us the opportunity of reading a volume of "The Animal Kingdom, considered Anatomically, Physically and Philosophically, by Emanuel Swedenborg; translated by James John Garth Wilkinson, member of the College of

Surgeons, London." From the evidences presented in this great work, it is clear that Swedenborg was neither understood nor appreciated in his own age, and he certainly is not in our own. His researches in the second volume of the Animal Kingdom, on the nose, uvula, larynx, epiglottis, trachea, lungs, pleura, thymus gland, diaphragm, skin, sense of touch, &c., are exceedingly profound. Teeming, as the elementary works of anatomy do, with curious and striking descriptions of individual organs, and physiological deductions, we have seen nothing superior to this learned author. He has laid all nature under severe contribution, and left nothing of much importance to be detailed in regard to the subjects discussed in this bibliographical monument of personal industry and truly scientific research.

From the death of Swedenborg till 1844, this, as well as some other erudite productions of that eminent philosopher, were sealed up in the Latin language, and therefore inaccessible to the majority of students. By the untiring efforts of the translator, the whole of the Animal Kingdom, in two stately octavos of nearly 700 pages each, are now in plain English, and therefore open to the study and admiration of all who honor genius or desire to profit by the achievements of a man of extraordinary intellectual endowments. We shall have more to say on this point, in connection with remarks on the first volume of the Animal Kingdom, when its contents are more thoroughly examined.

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*Influence of Tropical Climates.*—All who read the standard works on medicine are familiar with Dr. James Johnson's treatise on the "Influence of Tropical Climates on European Constitutions." Twenty-five years is a long time for a modern book to maintain its original reputation. That period has elapsed since the author gave the results of his researches to the public—and the volume still commands the entire confidence of the highest medical authorities. In order to combine as much matter as possible, of the same character, in an economical form, and thus enhance the intrinsic value of both, Dr. Martin's celebrated official report on the climate and diseases of Calcutta, was added. Lastly, in bringing out the present American, from the sixth London edition, notes have been added, with the view of giving the whole a complete finish. As the note-maker, however, conscious, probably, of his inability to better the text, had the wisdom to keep his name out of sight, the assertion of the fact on the title-page that such affixes have been added, has no kind of weight with thinking people. It is time this catch-penny scheme of apparently bettering a good book, by nobody knows who, and which, as a general thing, enlarges the book without improving it, was frowned upon by the profession, in order to arrest the further progress of a literary abomination, in which our countrymen have become conspicuous.

It is hardly necessary to advert to the topics discussed, since Dr. Johnson is an old acquaintance in all the libraries. For the sake of the beneficial influence these writings are calculated to exert, every friend to the diffusion of useful knowledge must be gratified to know that the price is now so reasonable that all who desire may procure a copy. Published by S. & W. Wood, New York. Ticknor & Co., Boston, have it.

*Dr. Gilbert's Valedictory.*—By request of the class in attendance on the medical lectures at the Pennsylvania College, the valedictory address of Dr. Gilbert, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery, has been printed. It is a sound, logical discourse, treating on subjects of peculiar value to medical men. His remarks on competition in practice, are admirable. Nothing is more common or more lamentable, than to see two fellow students, immediately on becoming established in business, become rivals—and finally, going on from bad to worse, absolutely treat each other with marked contempt and even hatred.

"Place your reliance," says Dr. Gilbert, "upon good sense, eminent professional attainments and character." In summing up the duties appertaining to professional life, he distinctly inculcates a recognition of religion as an all-controlling principle as well as duty.

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*Portraits of New York Medical Professors.*—Messrs. S. & W. Wood, No. 261 Pearl street, New York, have an immense collection of works on medicine, anatomy, surgery, midwifery, chemistry, &c., which are worthy the examination of medical gentlemen visiting that city. In their recently-published catalogue, we notice that they have the portraits of the faculty of the two medical colleges of New York. The seven professors of each institution are on separate plates, of twenty-four by thirty inches. A few of the impressions would be regarded with satisfaction this way. There is a peculiar gratification in knowing how those men look, who have notified the world, by their intellectual efforts, that they are active and useful in it.

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*Mortality in Massachusetts.*—On the authority of Mr. Shattuck, whose valuable letter to the Secretary of the State is published in the last Annual Report of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Massachusetts—

"The population of Massachusetts may now be estimated at 800,000. From the returns of deaths received, I have estimated the whole number of deaths in the State last year to have been 14,000, which is nearly 1 in 57, or 1.75 per cent. of the population. Of these 14,000, there died at least 6,000 children and youth under 15 years of age. Estimating the average ages of the whole of these in the same proportion as those actually known, it will give for each about 4 years, or 24,000 years of life for all. This, at \$50 a year, amounts to \$1,200,000 as the cost of their maintenance. And all this sum was lost to the State last year by premature deaths, before any return could be made for it. Can any one doubt that half, at least, might have been saved by proper knowledge and care?"

"The proportionate number of deaths among the young has been increasing for several years past in this country, as our investigations prove; and we see no reason to believe it will be less, until more knowledge is diffused in regard to the laws of life and the liability to death, under different circumstances. This immense loss of the productive power of the State, may be considered as an annual tax, which the people must pay every year, until they find out and use the means of prevention.

"It has been said that the strength and dignity of a nation consist not in its lands, its houses, its wealth—but in its people. And I have already stated, that that people is most prosperous which contains the greatest

proportionate number of the productive age. In the above calculation, we have not taken into account the loss sustained by the death of those belonging to this age. This would greatly swell the amount of loss. We have stated that by care and attention the late Dr. Ripley probably added 50 years to his life. We are now considering, time as money, labor as money, *life as money*, and not the real, moral value of that good man's services. Estimating then this time to be worth \$1.00 per day, or \$300 per annum, the 50 years of his life were worth \$15,000, and that sum was saved by the prolongation of his life. The deaths in this State last year, as we have estimated, were 14,000. Of these, 5000 probably died between 15 and 60 years of age. Let us suppose, by proper knowledge of the laws of health and a proper care in obeying these laws, 5 years might, on the average, have been added to each of their lives—and this seems not an extravagant supposition."

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**Dental Head Rest.**—Dr. Temple, an operative dentist, of this city, has invented something that really carries its value on its frontlet, and we hope the dentists everywhere will not only purchase the new instrument, but sound the merit of the invention over the country. A costly part of a dentist's office is an operating chair. Some very queer contrivances are to be found in some of the dental establishments; but the merit of Dr. Temple's head rest consists in this, that it may be screwed to the back of any chair, and give all the requisite height, inclination or lateral position, which may ever be required. The perpendicular rod has a joint in the middle, so that when detached from a chair or stool, it can be folded up in a trunk and hardly occupy more room than a box rule. It is a cheap instrument, too, another strong recommendation. Mr. Hunt, the surgical cutler, corner of Washington and Water streets, who does everything in his line in a superior manner, is the manufacturer. While examining into the capabilities and comfort of this dental head rest, the idea struck us that barbers, likewise, would find this better than any of the clumsy chair back frame-work in their shops, and certainly as elegant a fixture as the nicest-kept dressing saloon in this or any other city can boast. Dr. Harris must certainly have a plate and description of Dr. Temple's ingenious device in the next No. of the Dental Journal.

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**Intemperance productive of Pauperism.**—There are 6854 persons in the various almshouses of Massachusetts; fed and clothed at the expense of the people, who have probably been made paupers by intemperance in themselves or others with whom they were connected. A sad picture this, of the vice of drinking, which neither law, the public sentiment, or the force of virtuous example, has been able to control.

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**Influence of the Imagination in the Cure of Disease.**—In opening a course of lectures on Physiology lately at the College of France, M. Magendie spoke at length on the power of the mind in relieving disease. A few detached quotations are here given.

"These reflections explain at once the cures of which homœopathy is so proud. Homœopathy, instead of bleeding a patient, will place gravely on his tongue a globule of aconite, which he will swallow with confidence

and faith. You then see the disease improve. But it would have improved just as well without globules, provided some singular operation had struck the imagination of the patient. It is really too great a stretch of credulity to believe that a globule prepared by the formulæ of Hahnemann can contain any active principle. But, on the other hand, any one who has seen disease, must at once admit that this same globule may exercise, through the imagination, a powerful moral effect. You must not, indeed, accuse me of partiality towards homœopathy, when I state that I firmly believe that a physician would cure a patient sooner with globules, if the patient has faith in them, than with the most appropriate medicinal substances, if he distrusted their action.

"What I state respecting medicinal substances is equally applicable to bleeding. A patient is seized with the symptoms to which the term inflammatory has been applied, and asks to be bled, believing that the loss of blood will cure him. You open a vein, and the abstraction of a certain quantity of the vital fluid is followed by an amelioration of the symptoms. But take care how you interpret the fact; the improvement may be owing to the moral effect produced, more than to the venesection. For more than ten years I have not found it necessary to have recourse to copious bleeding; in other words, I have rather endeavored to act on the mind of the patient than on the circulation, and I have no hesitation in asserting that my practice has not been the less successful.

"Yes, gentlemen, we love error, and often refuse to yield to evidence, even when it is proved to us that our good faith and credulity have been imposed upon. Of this fact I will give you the following proof. A lady, a fervent believer in mesmerism, asked her niece, who was poorly, for a lock of her hair, in order to consult a somnambulist. The niece, wishing to try the credulity of her aunt, gave her the hair of her maid instead of her own. A renowned somnambulist was consulted, and at once recognized, by the hair of the maid, all the symptoms presented by the niece, whose sufferings she minutely described, to the great edification of the lady. The latter was then informed of the trick that had been played. You would naturally have thought that she would have recognized the imposture of the somnambulist. Not at all; she preferred concluding that the maid servant had the same disease as her niece, and obliged her to submit to a regular treatment, as if she had been poorly, although at that time in the best possible health."

With regard to M. Magendie's practice of trusting to the imagination in treating acute disease, the Dublin Quarterly Journal says:—

"When studying at Paris, we had an opportunity of witnessing, in M. Magendie's wards in the Hotel Dieu, the powerful influence, on disease, of mere hygienic conditions. We have seen pneumonias and other acute inflammations brought to a successful issue by attention only to temperature, hygrometric state, diet and rest. Still, however, we believe every one but the distinguished physiologist himself, was convinced that the fatal cases were much more numerous with him than with his colleague, M. Chomel."

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*Medical Science in Palermo.*—Prof. F. H. Hamilton, of Geneva, N. Y., in his "Notes of an European Tour," published in the Buffalo Medical Journal, thus alludes to the state of medicine in Palermo, Sicily:—

"It cannot be supposed that in such a country the science of medicine has made much progress. Medical students go abroad to receive their education, and although several physicians and surgeons in Palermo deservedly hold a high rank, yet they complain of the successful rivalry of the Priests and the 'Salassatori.' The Priest, or what is equivalent, his 'holy relic,' often obtains the credit of the cure, even when a regular physician is employed. The 'Salassatori' are found in almost every street; the shops being indicated by a barber's pole, two large copper basins and a horse tail; occasionally, also, by a vile painting representing a 'Seneca,' throwing blood like a jet d'eau from a dozen orifices. Within is a swarthy Sicilian, who will furnish you salves for ulcers, cancers and tumors, will leech and pull teeth, will bind up your wounds, and mend your bones, will bleed you by the ounce, will shave, cut hair and point your 'imperial.' These are the veritable representatives of the ancient 'barber surgeons,' whose 'ensign,' in the twelfth century, was a pole wrapt with a red roller, supported by two basins: of which honorable fraternity the great Paré boasted himself a member, and from which the present 'royal stock' of surgeons are lineal descendants. It is therefore that I have examined the more in detail these establishments, one of which I entered and explored entirely to my satisfaction; which done, I requested the surgeon to bleed me. 'How many ounces, Signore?' 'Six.' 'Where?' 'In the arm.' Immediately I was divested of my coat—my hand was made to grasp the top of an upright rod, supported by three legs—my sleeve was turned up smoothly and tenderly above the elbow—the blood red fillet was then applied in a most artistical manner, a spear-pointed lancet was selected from the arsenal, and already was the thirray weapon glittering in the air, when I withdrew my arm, and declared myself satisfied. It was as a *pupil* and not as a patient, that I had entered the office of this descendant of my Fathers. Francesco paid him the two carlini, and we went on.

"Homœopathy has also lately attracted a large share of patronage; and in Palermo, as at home, its converts are chiefly among the most aristocratic circles, over whom such sugared pretences have always a remarkable power of fascination; and in Sicily, homœopathy now threatens fairly to supplant the sister faith in amulets, and the bottled breath of departed saints!"

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**Medullary Tumor in a Child aged Six Years.** By B. W. M'CREADY, M.D.—This disease was preceded by emaciation, pain and fretfulness. The abdomen became tumid, and gradually increased in size. On examination, a large medullary tumor, weighing nine pounds, was found in the abdomen, lying between the ribs and spine of the ileum of the right side, involving the aorta and vena cava.—*Dublin Hospital Gazette.*

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**Medical Miscellany.**—Scarlet fever is said to be prevalent on Bayou Rapids, La. Several slaves have died on the plantations, of the disease.—The Massachusetts Medical Society has applied to the city authorities for the use of Faneuil Hall, May 27th—which looks like having a good dinner, with elbow room.—There are 830 paupers in Massachusetts, reduced to poverty by reason of insanity and idiocy. There are 619 insane persons wholly or partially supported by the State.—The population of Vi-



enna, in Austria, is 250,000—giving an average of 40 persons to each house in the city.—At this time there are 134 Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons in the U. S. Navy—about half enough.—The cit of Paris, in 1845, was supplied with 77,139 oxen; 20,929 cows; 82,871 calves; and 457,450 sheep.—Dr. Charles F. Mitchell, one of the most notorious counterfeiters, died lately at Philadelphia, in prison.—Dr. Fitzgerald, Physician to the Croom and Fedomore Dispensary, Ireland, writes that "fever, in a most aggravated form, is raging here. There is scarcely a family in some localities here that is not laboring under the malady." He says it is produced, in a great degree, by the badness and insufficiency of food.—In 1693, the President of the London College of Physicians had a Dr. Groenvelt committed to Newgate for using Spanish flies as an internal remedy.—Dr. Harrison, of the Medical College of Ohio, says that he knew a young lady, 18 years of age, who died from copious vomiting, three days after taking four grains of emetic tartar, dissolved in eight spoonfuls of water.—Opium and carbonate of ammonia are good remedies for arresting gastric irritation, produced by the administration of anti-mony.—It is always best, as far as practicable, to give emetics towards night, says high authority, that the patient may have the tendency to sleep, induced by the act of vomiting, fully secured.—Cupping removes the blood more rapidly, and unloads engorged vessels much quicker, than leeches.—Bad effects may be produced by dull lancets. They tear the coats of a vein, and severe inflammation may arise from it.—A shark was taken on the Spanish Maine, which had in its stomach an earthen pot one foot in diameter by two in length, which the voracious monster probably seized as it fell from the deck of a vessel.—An abstract of the returns of the overseers of the poor of the several cities and towns in this Commonwealth, 1845, shows that at the close of the year, there were 3592 foreign paupers maintained at the public charge.

*Report of Deaths in Boston*—for the week ending April 11th, 61.—Males, 34, females, 27. Stillborn, 7. Of consumption, 12—smallpox, 5—disease of the bowels, 2—measles, 4—sudden, 1—scarlet fever, 4—influenza, 1—accidental, 2—convulsions, 5—teething, 2—lung fever, 5—paralysis, 2—old age, 1—delirium tremens, 1—dropsy of the brain, 3—croup, 1—hooping cough, 2—disease of the heart, 1—intemperance, 1—infantile, 1—canker, 1—cholera infantum, 1—marasmus, 1—erysipelas, 1—disease of the spine, 1.

Under 5 years, 31—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 40 years, 14—between 40 and 60 years, 4—over 60 years, 6.

REGISTER OF THE WEATHER,

Kept at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Mass. Lat. 42° 15' 49". Elevation 483 ft.

March.	Therm.	Barometer.	Wind.	March.	Therm.	Barometer	Wind.
1	from 6 to 25	from 29.53 to 29.67	N	17	from 30 to 37	from 29.93 to 29.99	N W
2	8 18	29.65 29.70	N E	18	27 40	29.29 29.30	N W
3	14 34	29.72 29.78	N E	19	33 49	29.14 29.20	N, W
4	22 45	29.10 29.44	S W	20	40 62	29.20 29.25	N
5	37 44	29.06 29.10	W	21	40 49	29.23 29.32	N W
6	23 37	29.18 29.20	S W	22	31 45	29.50 29.50	N W
7	14 36	29.32 29.40	N W	23	30 61	29.50 29.65	S W
8	25 40	29.20 29.26	N W	24	36 40	29.36 29.40	S
9	32 43	29.34 29.47	N W	25	34 50	29.00 29.20	S E
10	28 44	29.54 29.61	N W	26	41 44	28.95 29.00	N E
11	21 49	29.70 29.74	S W	27	42 63	28.98 29.08	W
12	33 54	29.62 29.64	S W	28	37 50	29.10 29.20	S W
13	42 59	29.40 29.52	S W	29	33 46	29.27 29.31	W
14	50 52	28.70 28.99	S E	30	35 44	29.44 29.50	N W
15	36 48	28.95 29.06	S W	31	29 44	29.58 29.62	W
16	35 42	28.93 29.04	N W				

This month has been unusually pleasant for the season, and the travelling is now good in this vicinity. No snow has fallen—a rare occurrence. Range of the Thermometer, from 6° to 62°. Barometer, from 28.70 to 29.78. Rain, 3.33 inches. The flowering season has commenced. Singing birds are plenty.

*On the Application of Galvanism in Cases of "Accidental Hemorrhage."*—In a late No. of the Medical Gazette we find the details of a case of accidental uterine hæmorrhage, and some practical remarks on the subject by Dr. Radford. A female, in the eighth month of pregnancy, received a fright, which was followed by a discharge of blood from the uterus. The writer being sent for, found the os uteri closed and rigid, the uterus itself flaccid. There was no pain; the usual treatment was adopted, but the hæmorrhage did not cease. Galvanism was then applied, by placing one conductor on the os uteri, the other externally over the uterina fundus. Dr. Radford observes,—

"From the moment that the circle was complete, uterine pain was excited; and a bearing-down effort was produced. These effects were observed to be more or less intense, according to the length of time the conductors were allowed to remain applied. The uterus was felt to be tonically contracted during the intervals, and this effect was observed to be increased after each temporary action induced by the application of the connection rod.

"This plan was continued at intervals for half an hour. I now withdrew the vaginal conductor, and placed a common conductor externally on each side of the uterus so as to press the galvanic current in a transverse and oblique direction. In doing so I moved them from the upper to the lower part of the organ, taking care to have each placed in such a manner that every portion of the uterine tissue (as far as possible) was subjected to the influence of this remedy.

"From the time that the uterus began to contract, the flooding abated, and soon altogether ceased. The os uteri also began to soften, and gradually yielded, so that, at the end of six hours, it was so far dilated as to allow the head of the child to pass through it. The child was born alive. The placenta was also expelled without further assistance. There was no further flooding. The uterus was found firmly contracted."

The application should not be long continued, and occasional interruptions should be made so as "to imitate, in some degree, nature's operations."—*London Lancet*.

*On the Milk of Carnivora.* By M. DUMAS.—M. Dumas found no sugar in the milk of a dog which had been fed for 15 days exclusively upon horse-flesh, nor could a trace of butyric acid be detected in it. In another, fed for the same time, and on bread soaked in fat broth, it contained sugar. He also found the caseine became diminished in quantity when a diet of bread succeeded a diet of meat; and the sugar, which could not be detected when the food contained no starch, was distinctly present when starch predominated in the food. M. Dumas believes that the globules in milk are surrounded by a caseous coating, he found that, if milk be shaken with pure ether, the two liquids, which are at first mixed, separate by repose, and the milk preserves its ordinary appearance, whilst the ether dissolves scarcely anything. If, however, acetic acid be added to the milk, and this is then boiled, the whole of the butter may be removed by subsequent agitation with ether; the milk is then no longer opalescent. Moreover, if the milk be saturated with a chloride of sodium, when filtered, we obtain a perfectly limpid serum containing the soluble caseine, the sugar and salts; the globules remain on the filter.—*Comptes Rendus, Supt.*, 1845.